



## HG222: God's Promise Of: **Salvation**

Psalm 27:1-14

Home Group Study Notes

23 May 2021 - Pauline Woolnough



PLEASE COMPLETE AS MUCH AS YOU CAN  
ON THIS WORKSHEET IN PREPARATION  
**BEFORE THE MEETING!**

*Don't forget to take your Bible to Home Group  
with you, along with any previous notes and other  
resources which might be helpful for your discussions.*



### **Welcome** (10 mins) *Ice Breaker*

Do you have a favourite scripture verse that you always go to in times of trouble?



### **Looking Upwards** (10 mins) *Worship*

In your time of worship, you may want to sing Songs of Praise; listen to a Worship CD, as well as using Meditations; Bible Readings; Prayers ...



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Psalm 27:1-14

Home Group Sermon

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**Introduction** Psalm 27 is one of confidence with a bit of a wobble half way through so it's one that we can all identify with. David reminds us of the closeness of God and the intimacy that we share with him when in v 8 he says *"My heart has heard you say, 'Come and talk with me.' And my heart responds, 'Lord I am coming.'"* What an invitation and the very essence of a good relationship, talking spending time with your friend or in this case, with your Heavenly Father. David was yet again going through a difficult time and if anyone had a reason to fear, it was David. When he wasn't at war with neighbouring nations, he was being hunted by his own people so I think we can excuse him the odd wobble or two.

**What about the hard times?** It's easy to be confident of the Lord's help when everything is going well but when things get tough and God sometimes appears silent, how do we continue to remain confident and praise him when we are fearful about our own lives or the lives of those we love? It's impossible to say exactly when David wrote this psalm or where he was at the time but Vs 2-3 tell us he was being pursued by enemies, v 4 indicates that he was shut out from the house of the Lord, v 10 tells us that he was parted from his father and mother, and v 12 tells us that he was subject to slander. All in all David was going through a really difficult time, most likely when he was on the run and being hunted by King Saul.

**If God is for us ...** David knew personally of *"The Light that shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never extinguish it."* Jn 1:5, and we know that Light to be Jesus. He says in v 1, *"The Lord is my light and salvation so why should I be afraid?"* I'd say he had plenty to be afraid of. Enemies surrounded him but even in the midst of all his troubles he knew that God was with him and that he would protect him and as his faith and confidence rises he becomes bolder, confidently asserting that the Lord would be his salvation. The Lord would save him. He wasn't afraid because God was his strong place of protection and he had personal experience of God's help that he could draw on to get him through this crisis.

**Drawing on personal experience** of the Lord in our lives is crucial in helping us remain faithful and in getting through any crisis. There are many experiences that I can draw upon when the Lord has helped me but there has only ever been one time in my life that I can say without any doubt that I heard the Lord speak to me and he said what I needed to hear at the time.

It was many years ago, I was a fairly new Christian and I was full of anxiety about a loved one. I prayed and prayed but nothing ever changed. This issue consumed me, it went on for months and I spoke to the Lord but he never spoke back until this one morning. I remember clearly where I was, the time of day, how I felt, when, in my usual high state of anxiety, clear as anything the Lord said to me, *“Be still and know that I am God.”* I felt incredibly calm and it was as if these words dropped down into my head. Now that is what I had needed to do but I couldn’t do it because my eyes were always on the problem. However, another voice in my head told me it was just my imagination. I knew this phrase as part of a song but as a new Christian I had no idea it was a verse from scripture or where it could be found. So I said out loud, (there was only me in the house at the time) *“did you just say that?”* There was a mirror nearby and after I asked that question the scripture reference appeared on the glass and I read Psalm 46:10 clear as day. I rushed to find a bible and looked up Ps 46:10 and there the words spoke back to me, *“Be still and know that I am God.”* That verse and memory has sustained ever since. I have to say the situation didn’t magically get better overnight but I was able to cope because I knew that the Lord was aware and I was confident that he was with me and like David when he says in v 8 *“My heart has heard you say “Come and talk with me.” And my heart responds, “Lord I am coming.”* I know that in every dark and difficult situation I need to draw on my experience of the Lord, I need to *“Be still”* and go and talk to my Father.

**Seeking God** David said in v4 *“One thing have I desired of the Lord, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to enquire in his temple.”* This was David’s pearl of great price. He could do without a lot of things but it was the Lords presence he needed above all else. It has always been God’s greatest desire that his people should find Him and enter into relationship with him. David here uses different terms to describe the Lords house and speaks of it 5 different times. V 4 *“the house of the Lord,”* and *“his Temple.”* In v 5 and 6 he calls it his *“dwelling, and tabernacle”* and *“a rock”* in v 5. When he could have expressed his desire for a way out, for peace with Saul, David realised that when everything is stripped away all he wanted and needed was God’s presence and he knew that he could be found anywhere, even on some rock.

**Waiting on God** In the difficult times we need to focus on what we know about God and how he has been constant in our lives. Life wont always go the way we would like, we will hurt at times and we will grieve and we will not always receive the answers we would like to our prayers. At times we may simply have to hang on and trust God drawing on our past experience of him that tells us he is faithful despite how circumstances may look, and so we wait, accept his invitation and talk to him about things.

**Trusting one minute ...** We have a Saviour, who on the cross when his pain and suffering overwhelmed him, asked the question, *“My God, My God, why have you forsaken me? Where are you God?”* We have a Saviour who understands every feeling, question, doubt, fear, pain that we experience and who knows that we can become overwhelmed at times by circumstances that lead us to take our eyes of the Lord, who we cannot see, and look at our problems that we can see. Perhaps this is what happened with David. Maybe the enemy snuck in and said, *“Are you serious David, have you had a good look at your situation? Where is your God when you need him?”* And David wobbled.

... **wobbling the next** David says in vs 9-10 *“Do not turn your back on me. Do not reject your servant in anger.”* He had just finished praising God, trusting in him to save him and now he is anxious about being rejected. I think this is so common with us. Full of confidence in the Lord’s goodness one moment, afraid he wont extend it to us in the next. When we go through difficult times that despite our prayers, never seems to improve, doubts can creep in. *“Yes God is good but will he be good to me? What if he is angry with me?”* David says, *“Don’t leave me now; don’t abandon me.”* Is there the possibility that he may help me some time but not another time? I think we can feel like that at times, I know I can.

**The Heart of Christ** I’m reading a book at the moment called *“Gentle and Lowly”* by Dane Ortlund and it’s about the heart of Christ, about who he is and what he is really like. It’s written for the times when we feel discouraged, weary and disappointed with ourselves and if we are disappointed in ourselves, how much more will God be disappointed in us. Perhaps his patience is running out when we mess up yet again. In one of the chapters he takes the scripture from Jn 6.37, *“All that the Father gives me will come to me and whoever comes to me I will never cast out.”* The NIV says *“..... I will never drive away.”*

John Bunyan took this one verse and wrote a whole book on it called, *“Come and welcome to Jesus Christ.”* Jn 6:37 was one of Bunyans favourite verses and he looks at it from every angle dissecting practically every word but of course the gist of it is that every single person, not just some of them, who the Father gives to Jesus is welcome and will never ever be cast out or driven away, always remembering that we come not to a set of doctrines, or to a church or even to the gospel but we come to a Person, to Jesus Christ Himself. In Ch 6 Dane helps to explain this in the kind of conversation that we may find ourselves having with the Lord at times when we feel unworthy and find this unconditional love hard to believe in and so we put forward all manner of objections as to why God would still love us when surely he must be fed up with us. He puts it much better than I can but the conversation we may have with Christ when he says that he will never cast anyone out goes along the lines -

*“But I am a great sinner”* and Jesus says back, *“I will never cast you out.”*  
*“But I let you down all the time,”* ...he says *“I will never cast you out.”*  
*“But I’m always going my own way,”* ..... *“I will never cast you out.”*  
*“But I have nothing to offer you”* ..... *“I will never cast you out.”*

The phrase *“I will never cast you out”* is at the heart of Bunyan’s book and is there to calm us with the persevering nature of the heart of Christ, we say... *“but I.....”* and Jesus says *“I will never cast you out.”* But just as that voice in my head all those years ago tried to persuade me that the voice of God was my imagination, that same voice will try to deflect Christ’s assurances and we will come back at him and say,  
*“but you don’t understand, I have really messed up this time,”* and Jesus says.... *“I know.”*

and we will say *“but I know what I’m really like,”* and he says *“I know it all.”*  
*“but I never seem to be able to change,”*.... *“I understand”*  
*“but I don’t know if I can change in the future,”*.... *“you’re just the kind of person I’m here to help”*  
*“I don’t think I can do it, the burden is heavy,”* ..... *“then let me carry it.”*  
*“its too heavy,”*.... *“not for me.”*

*“you don’t understand, it’s not just others I let down, I rebel against you,”... “then I am the one most suited to forgive you.”  
“as you know all about me I know you will get fed up with me.”... “whoever comes to me I will never ...ever.. cast out” ..... End off!*

Jesus doesn’t say that only those who always do their best, volunteer for everything, read their bibles every day, never say a bad word or ever turn away from him will enjoy his love and Presence forever, he says *“Whoever comes to me I will never cast out.”* When we are in a crisis, when God is silent and we feel alone, when the doubts creep in telling us that we have not been as good as we should have been and he is therefore angry with us, lost his patience, he’s making us wait and teaching us a lesson, then read Jn 6:37 and know that there is nothing that we can do that would make him cast us out. His heart isn’t like ours. Then go back again to Psalm 27 and accept the invitation from v 8 that says, *“My heart has heard you say “Come and talk with me.” And my heart responds, “Lord I am coming.”* Talk to the Lord and as v 14 says, *“Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord.” “Be Still and know that he is God.” Ps 46:10.* God is bigger than any problem we face. David says in v 3 that this is true no matter how large the threat, *“Though an army besiege me, my heart will not fear; though war break out against me, even then will I be confident.”*

**... so why should I be afraid?** I’m afraid of several things but above all what would frighten me the most would be to face God on the day of judgement without Jesus alongside me. Believing in Jesus Christ gives me the security of knowing that my sins are forgiven and that I am saved from God’s wrath. Jesus Christ is my Light and Salvation, the stronghold of my life and I am secure in him, so why should I be afraid? One of the best ways of describing what God offers us through the gospel, is safety, after all, *“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life” Jn 3:16.* The call to wait on God is an invitation to trust and to hope believing that one day, even if today is not that day, he will make all things right.

*(With thanks to Dane Ortland and his book Gentle and Lowly in helping me prepare this study.)*

## **Emmanuel Church Text for 2021**

*“We have this hope as an anchor for the soul,  
firm and secure.”*

**Hebrews 6:19**



## **Looking Upwards** (40 mins)

### *Bible Study*

Read the text for this study, and any references given, then answer the following questions. You may find it helpful to listen to the sermon and/or read through the sermon notes as you do so. Discuss some, or all, your answers with your Home Group and, remember, these questions are only a guide to start your discussions.

**1.** David was surrounded by enemies. What “enemies” are you facing today that you need the Lord’s help with ?

**2.** What is your normal pattern for responding to these “enemies” or fears?

**3.** If you could ask one thing of the Lord what would it be?

**4.** Do you think that we pray expectantly enough believing that the Lord hears us.

**5.** How are you able to maintain trust in the Lord when he appears silent?

**6.** Do you have an experience that you draw on and that you can share that helps you through difficult times?



Is there anything you most want to put into practice as a result of this study?



## **Looking Inwards** (15 mins) *Caring For Each Other*

*Reflecting on your life at the moment, is there anything you would like to share with other members of your home group which you feel is appropriate (this is an opportunity to share, not something you have to do, however, 'It's the sharing that enables the caring!')* for:

Thanksgiving?

Prayer?

Encouragement?

Support in any way?



## **Looking Outwards** (15 mins) *Concern For Others*

*Is there anything concerning someone in your: family; circle of friends; neighbours or church, which you would like to share (please be sure not pass on anything that is confidential or which you think the person concerned would not wish to be shared) for:*

Thanksgiving?

Prayer?

Encouragement?

Support in any way?

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